

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
I. Placement Stability			
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
1	RFP for statewide foster parent recruitment	<p>This action step has been completed.</p> <p>New statewide foster parent recruitment contracts were implemented on time January 2005. The contracts include recruitment needs identified by each region and performance targets. These are 18 month contracts. Contract details have been provided previously to the panel.</p> <p>(KCF II 24.1.1, 24.1.2)</p>	1/05
2	Require multi-disciplinary case staffings for children in four or more placements	<p>This action step is in process.</p> <p>CA received Panel feedback on the plan for staffing cases involving children experiencing multiple placements on Sept 8th and incorporated that feedback into staffing plan. Phase in implementation is set to begin January 06.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.1.1) (See attachment 1 for more information about children with multiple placements)</p>	<p>Phase I: 5/06 (Children with 5 or more placements)</p> <p>Phase II: 5/07 (All children with 3 or more placements)</p>
3	Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers at time of initial placement	<p>This action step is nearing completion.</p> <p>A new draft placement policy has been developed outlining new requirements related to placement decisions. This new proposed policy clarifies and expands the current Assistant Secretary operational directive regarding placement decisions and safe placements. Draft policy was sent to the Panel on Nov 14th and CA is awaiting the panel's comments. CA will move forward with the policy 30-days from receiving Panel's feedback.</p> <p>The new policy requires prior to placement that social workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review all of the child's prior legal and placement information and any available health and education information to facilitate the best match between the child and caregiver. ▪ Notify the caregiver of any information on the child regarding physical or sexual abuse, sexual aggression or physically assaultive behavior toward other children and/or any know history of fire starting, self mutilation and/or cruelty to animals. ▪ Provide information on the child regarding well-being. ▪ Review available home studies of potential placements. ▪ Review information on other children who are living in the placement resource <p>The policy also identifies unsafe and prohibited placements and provides direction regarding safe placements.</p>	12/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
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Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
		<p>Family Team Decision Meetings have been implemented in seven sites across the state and are held for children at risk of placement or children who have been removed are to receive a FTDM before removal or within 72 hours of removal or where there is a risk of placement disruption. FTDMs have been in operation in these sites for most of 2005. Policy requiring the use of FTDM for the above situations in being implemented in the 7 sites in January. (See attachment 2 for the new FTDM policy)</p> <p>CA is also conducting Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET) screenings and staffings. Information from the CHET helps to inform placement decisions and copies of this document are provided to Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers with in 5 days of completion.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.2.2)</p>	
4	Develop and implement policy to provide emergency respite to licensed foster care and relative caregivers to prevent disruption	<p>This action step is partially completed</p> <p>Management will review a phase in implementation plan of the revised respite policy in February 2006. (See attachment 3 for the draft respite policy)</p> <p>A revised respite policy, which clarifies and expands when respite is available to unlicensed relative caregivers, has been developed and approved by CA management. CA is now working on implementation issues. There are resources issues that need to be addressed prior to implementation.</p> <p>In the interim, respite is being provided to foster parents and relative caregivers as per existing respite policy.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.1.3)</p>	8/05
5	Complete implementation plan for 2003 legislation to increase educational stability of foster children (HB 1058). Complete and implement agreements with school districts, addressing transportation issues for children transferring schools	<p>This action step is on schedule to be completed.</p> <p>The Statewide MOU between OSPI and CA, statewide summit and the Interagency Agreement between DCFS and school districts has been completed. (See attachment 4)</p> <p>To date <u>57</u> local school agreements have been signed, the agency expects to complete the target of completing agreements with 30% of school districts by 7/06. CA is</p>	7/06

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
I. Placement Stability			
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
	upon placement or move between placements	<p>targeting those districts with the highest number of children in placement.</p> <p>Educational leads/liaisons in each region are in place to facilitate school district agreements and acting as school/CA staff liaisons.</p> <p>Implementation of the Contracted Regional Educational Coordinators is still on scheduled for January 2006.</p> <p>Foster Care to College (FCTC) budget was finalized in 9/05. A coordinator is expected to be hired and implementation beginning in January 2006.</p> <p>The practice guide to "Education Advocacy for Children and Youth in foster Care" will be presented to CA management for approval in January 2006. This Guide will be introduced to CA staff through training provided by the coordinators beginning in March 2006. (See attachment 5)</p> <p>CA is developing a comprehensive training strategy to address the educational needs of children and youth in foster care from preschool to college. This training will be provided to CA staff, caregivers, contracted providers, youth and educators. Delivery of training is expected to be in September 2006.</p> <p>(KCF II 15.1.1, 15.2.3, 15.3.1, 15.3.2, 15.3.3, 15.3.4)</p>	
6	Increase the appropriate use of kinship care	<p>A great deal work has been done towards completing this action step.</p> <p>Relative placements show continued increase. (See attachment 6 that shows data about relative placements)</p> <p>Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) has been implemented in 7 urban offices across the state. The initial results from these 1,349 meetings show increased kinship involvement. (See attachment 7 for the FTDM data)</p> <p>CA has developed a standardized format and process that will be used for Kinship caregiver initial license and relative home studies for those relatives that want to be licensed. CA is now working on implementation issues. There are resources issues that need to be addressed</p>	6/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
I. Placement Stability			
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
		<p>prior to implementation.</p> <p>A kinship care policy framework has been revised and will be re-reviewed by CA management in February. The draft policy framework consists of four main strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to respite care, services and training for unlicensed relatives • Collaboration with caregivers to increase participation in staffings and court hearings • Standardized processes for relative searches • Tools to support child placements with relative caregivers (e.g. ethnic identity and ancestry chart) <p>Following CA management review and approval the policy will be provided to the panel and plaintiffs for comment.</p> <p>(KCF II 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 21.1.1)</p>	

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	I. Placement Stability		
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7	Revise and implement policy and procedure to provide for the involvement of children and parents in assessments, development of case plans and major decisions (including changes in placement)	<p>This action step is nearing completion.</p> <p>CA has developed a Shared Planning policy that addresses issues of involvement and participation of families.</p> <p>Participation of children, parents, relatives, caregivers in the development of case plans and major decisions has been enhanced through the implementation of Family Team Decision Meetings (FTDM). Their participation in FTDMs is outlined in the policy. (See attachment 2, FTDM policy)</p> <p>CA received the panel's comments on the proposed the Shared Planning policy on October 10th. CA sent updated information to the panel on November 14th and is currently waiting for any additional comment from the Panels before implementing.</p> <p>An ISSP desk guide provides instruction to CA staff regarding when and how to involve parents and children in case plans and decision making. This guide has been developed and a hard copy of the desk guide has been disseminated to staff. It is also available on-line via CA intranet website. This has been done ahead of the original proposed date.</p> <p>Training on engagement has been developed and implemented for both foster parents and CA staff. (See Foster Parent Training and Information Item 5)</p> <p>(KCF II 13.1.1)</p>	10/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
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Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
8	Develop and implement annual local office and/or regional, plans for the recruitment and retention of foster homes that specifically assess the need for and availability of placement for children with special needs, and for respite (especially for adolescents). Such plans shall specify the recruitment activities targeted at increasing the number of such homes. The plans shall contain numerical targets for increases each year in the number of homes in the special populations of children listed above, beginning in July 2005 until the target identified in the plans is met.	<p>This action step has been substantially completed and on time.</p> <p>Regional resource plans were completed on time for all six regions. The recruitment needs identified in these plans were incorporated into the state wide foster parent recruitment contracts. (See Item #1 above)</p> <p>A review of progress towards the numerical targets will be completed in January 2006. The Panel will receive the results of this review after we have assimilated the data.</p> <p>(KCF II 24.1.1, 24.1.2, 24.1.3)</p>	3/05
9	Develop a plan by June 30, 2005 for Panel review and approval to reduce caseloads to COA standards.	<p>Completion of this action step is in progress.</p> <p>A plan was submitted to the Panel on November 7th 2005. Further discussion was needed and a technical assistance conference call was held on with some panel members on December 22, 2005. A revised plan is being developed and will be submitted to the Panel in January 2006.</p> <p>(KCF II 14.1.8)</p>	6/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
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10	Notify child's representative (attorney/GAL/CASA) prior to placement move, except in emergencies. When a move has been made based on an emergency, the child's representative will be notified on the next business day.	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Policy outlining this requirement has been developed and communicated to all staff, AAG's and GAL's/CASA's. A copy of this policy was provided to the panel in January 2005.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.1.4)</p>	12/04
11	A history of the child's placements will be reported to the Juvenile Court at each dependency review hearing as part of the child's Individual Safety and Service Plan (ISSP).	<p>Progress has been made in completing this action step.</p> <p>An ISSP desk guide has been developed and a hard copy of the desk guide has been disseminated to staff. It is also available on-line via CA intranet website. This has been done ahead of the original proposed date.</p> <p>The agency is conducting a review of a sample of cases from each region to assess initial compliance with this requirement. This review will be completed by the end of February 2006. The Panel will receive the results of our review after we have assimilated them.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.1.5)</p>	1/06

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
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12	Consistent with the outcomes and benchmarks in Section IV.2, develop and begin to implement pilot programs in at least 3 sites providing therapeutic foster care using effective, evidence-based models of care for children with emotional and behavioral challenges.	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Contracts have been awarded. Providers to provide Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care (MTFC), in Yakima, Spokane and Pierce Counties.</p> <p>The contract has been awarded to the Model Developers (TFC) for initial training and on-going support. Contracts will be e-mailed to the Panel during the first week of January 2006.</p> <p>Treatment teams from the three sites have been trained on the model by TFC.</p> <p>Initial training for foster parents in MTFC was provided in November.</p> <p>Initial placement training began in December 2005.</p> <p>(KCF II 17.2.1)</p>	6/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

Braam Settlement Items		Status Update	
I. Placement Stability			
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
13	Implement strategies to increase appropriate matching between children and caregivers for children who need to be replaced.	<p>This action step is nearing completion.</p> <p>A new draft placement policy has been developed outlining new requirements related to placement decisions. This new proposed policy clarifies and expands the current Assistant Secretary operational directive regarding placement decisions and safe placements. Draft policy was sent to the Panel on Nov 14th and CA is awaiting the panel's comments. CA will move forward with the policy 30-days from receiving Panel's feedback.</p> <p>The new policy requires prior to placement that social workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all of the child's prior legal and placement information and any available health and education information to facilitate the best match between the child and caregiver. • Notify the caregiver of any information on the child regarding physical or sexual abuse, sexual aggression or physically assaultive behavior toward other children and/or any known history of fire starting, self mutilation and/or cruelty to animals. • Provide information on the child regarding well-being. • Review available home studies of potential placements. • Review information on other children who are living in the placement resource <p>Placement policy, see Placement Stability #3</p> <p>The policy also identifies unsafe and prohibited placements and provides direction regarding safe placements.</p> <p>Family Team Decision Meetings have been implemented in seven sites across the state and are held for children at risk of placement or children who have been removed are to receive a FTDM before removal or within 72 hours of removal or where there is a risk of placement disruption. FTDMs have been in operation in these sites for most of 2005. Policy requiring the use of FTDM for the above situations in being implemented in the 7 sites in January. (See attachment 2 FTDM policy)</p> <p>CA is also conducting Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET) screenings and staffings. Information from the CHET helps to inform placement decisions.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.2.3)</p>	12/07

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	I. Placement Stability		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
14	Develop a plan for Panel Review and approval, with input from plaintiffs to provide multi-disciplinary and/or case staffings for children in three or more placements.	See above Placement Stability #2. (KCF 6.1.1)	

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	II. Mental Health		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
1	Improve availability and utilization of regional medical consultants	<p>This item is nearing completion.</p> <p>The Initial Description of Roles and Responsibilities has been developed.</p> <p>CA has allotted 3 FTEs for medical consultants. Each region is allocated 0.5 FTE for a Medical Consultant. All Medical consultant positions have been filled. Information regarding the roles and responsibilities, including how to access services, of the medical consultants and has been provided to CA staff.</p> <p>(KCF II 16.2.1)</p>	6/05
2	Increase utilization of "No Wrong Door" staffings to identify needs for family and connect to services and resources	<p>As previously communicated to the panel, CA will not be utilizing NWD as the exclusive staffing model for youth exiting care.</p> <p>CA has developed a Shared Planning policy that addresses issues of involvement and participation of families. Including a staffing for those youth emancipating from foster care 6 months before they turn 18years old. This will help connect youth to services once she or he leaves foster care.</p> <p>See also Placement Stability #7</p> <p>(KCF II 16.2.2)</p>	9/05
3	In collaboration with community partners, utilizing Pre-Passport and Passport profiles or any successor model, identify regional services gaps and create plans to fill gaps through maximizing and developing local resources	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>Passport profiles have been provided to each region. Regional workgroups are in the process of developing recommendations and plans to fill service gaps utilizing local resources. These recommendations and plans will be completed in January with management review of the recommendations and plans in February 2006. CA will submit the plans to the Panel in April 2006.</p> <p>(KCF II 16.1.4)</p>	10/05
4	Implement newly developed agreements with Regional Support Networks in each region	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Sessions with the RSNs began in May 2005 and completed in September 2005.</p> <p>(KCF II 17.1.4)</p>	5/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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II. Mental Health			
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
5	Foster children's mental health needs will be periodically reassessed by mental health professionals, as indicated in their EPSDT or other relevant evaluation.	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>CA has developed policy which strengthens the requirement for periodic EPSDT as per the Medicaid periodicity schedule. In addition, CA has developed a practice guide "Practice guide to Well-being - Child Health and Education Tracking". Screening for mental health and substance abuse concerns is addressed in the guide. (See attachment 5)</p> <p>The policy and the practice guide are being presented to CA management team for approval in January 2006.</p> <p>(KCF II 17.1.7)</p>	12/05
6	The Department will develop and encourage Juvenile Court Judges to use a checklist for each review which prompts the Court to seek information on whether or not the physical and mental health and education needs of dependent children are being met.	<p>This item is nearing completion.</p> <p>The State Court Improvement Plan in cooperation with Casey Family Programs and CA is completing development of a checklist for Juvenile Court Judges use. The check list will be completed in early 2006 and training on the check list will be undertaken at the 2006 Superior court Judges spring conference in April 2006. (See attachment 8 for the checklist that is being implemented)</p> <p>(KCF II 17.1.8)</p>	12/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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	III. Foster Parent Training and Info		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
1	Implement statewide after-hours crisis support line for foster parents and other caregivers	<p>Completed. The statewide after-hours support line was implemented June 2005.</p> <p>Information about the after hours support line is included in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CA foster parent web site,• The monthly newsletter included with the foster parent checks; and• Monthly information through the foster parent e-mail list serve. <p>Information on the crisis support line was also made available at the foster parent conference in September.</p> <p>CA has developed crisis cards and magnets for foster parents with information on the after-hours crisis line. The cards are in the process of being printed and will be distributed in early 2006.</p> <p>A report on the utilization of the crisis support line will be prepared in January 2006 after the first 6 months of operation. The Panel will receive the report after the data has been assimilated.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.2.1)</p>	5/05
2	Develop and implement cross-training between foster parents and staff	<p>Complete and implementation of the training is ongoing.</p> <p>18 training sessions have been offered statewide between September and December 2005. These are joint foster parent/social worker training sessions. Training will continue to be offered throughout 2006 and the specific dates and locations will be published in December 2005.</p> <p>An outline of the training curriculum was provided to the panel in August 2005.</p> <p>(KCF II 22.1.2)</p>	9/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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III. Foster Parent Training and Info			
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
3	Require written notification to licensed foster parents and relative caregivers and provide support to increase their participation in meetings, staffings and hearings involving planning for children in their care	<p>Significant work has been done on this item.</p> <p>Current policy requires licensed foster parents to be notified of court hearings via a copy of the ISSP. The ISSP contains details regarding date and time of the hearing.</p> <p>Current policy also requires social workers to invite caregivers to participate in prognostic and other staffings.</p> <p>CA has developed a Shared Planning policy that addresses issues of involvement and participation of families.</p> <p>The Administration of Courts (AOC) has sent a notice to all Juvenile Court Judiciary indicating the need to determine if foster parents are present at each court hearing and to provide opportunity for foster parents' views to be heard. (See attachment 9 for the notice sent to the judiciary)</p> <p>At the February 2006 Management meeting, a proposed policy will be presented requiring CA send caregivers a separate written notice inviting them to participate in staffings and hearings. In addition to the policy, social workers will also receive a template for sending notice to the caregivers.</p> <p>(KCF II 22.2.2)</p>	<p>9/05</p> <p>Also see Placement Stability #7</p>
4	Implement RFP for providing statewide crisis support and other immediate support for licensed foster parents and relative caregivers	<p>This action step has been completed.</p> <p>As outlined in Placement Stability #1, the new statewide foster parent support and retention contracts were implemented on time January 2005. The contracts include support needs identified by each region and performance targets. These are 18 month contracts. Contract details have been provided previously to the panel.</p> <p>(KCF II 23.1.1)</p>	<p>1/05</p>

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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	III. Foster Parent Training and Info		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
5	Provide training for licensed foster parents and relative caregivers on policy revisions and engaging families and children	<p>Completed with training on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The 1 day engagement training for foster parents has been developed. 8 trainings occurred from September- December 2005. There are 24 trainings planned for January-June 2006.</p> <p>Engagement and working with birth families was also discussed in the foster parent pre-service training program. The curriculum was strengthened to place greater emphasis on working with birth families.</p> <p>Workshops on engaging and working with families were also included in the annual foster parent conference held in September 2005.</p> <p>(See attachment 11 for a copy of the training curriculum)</p> <p>(KCF II 4.2.3)</p>	4/05
6	DLR licensors develop and implement annual assessment and development plans for foster parents, and relative caregivers utilizing feedback and input from DCFS workers	<p>Some progress has been made on this item.</p> <p>This action step was included in the KCF II plan but implementation was identified as subject to approval of the 2005 CA budget request. The agency was unsuccessful in receiving funding in the biennium budget to support the implementation of this initiative. CA has drafted and policy and an assessment form. The agency is now reviewing alternative approaches that can used to achieve substantial compliance with this action step. The agency will complete the review by March 2006.</p> <p>(See attachment 12 for the proposed policy & draft assessment)</p> <p>(KCF II 6.2.5)</p>	9/05 - 9/07 March 2006

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	III. Foster Parent Training and Info		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
7	Develop and implement a policy requiring ongoing training for licensed foster parents	<p>This action step has been completed.</p> <p>Mandatory pre-service training for foster parents has been a long standing requirement. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-PRIDE pre-service training-first aid training-HIV/BBP training-SAY/PAY training as required <p>The agency has also provided and continues extensive in-service training opportunities for foster parents-both classroom and web-based training. Also, a 3 day foster parent conference is scheduled annually.</p> <p>The new policy makes in-service training mandatory for licensed foster parents. The policy which became effective March 1, 2005 requires that foster parents complete a minimum of 36 hours of approved in-service training every 3 years. The 3 years coincides with the time frame for re-licensing.</p> <p>(KCF II 40.2.1)</p>	1/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	III. Foster Parent Training and Info		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
8	Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers shall be provided with the results and recommendations of all of the Department's screenings and assessments, including the Pre-Passport or its successor, for children placed in their home five days after its completion, unless expressly limited by law or a child's lawful assertion of confidentiality. Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers shall be provided a copy of the child's Passport or its successor at the time of placement but no later than five days after its completion, unless expressly limited by law or a child's lawful assertion of confidentiality.	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>The new CHET guidelines require social workers to provide foster parents with the results of screening within 5 days. These guidelines are being provided to all staff in January 2006.</p> <p>In addition the proposed Shared Planning policy includes providing foster parents and others attending screenings a copy of the results and recommendations.</p> <p>CA received the panel's comments on the proposed Share Planning policy on October 10th. CA sent updated information to the Panel on November 14th and is currently waiting for any additional Panel comments before implementing. CA will move forward with implementation of the policy upon receipt of the Panel's comments.</p> <p>(KCF II 16.3.1,16.3.2, 16.3.3)</p>	9/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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	III. Foster Parent Training and Info		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
9	Licensed foster parents and relative caregivers will be encouraged and supported to participate in staffings of pre-passports (or successor) for children placed in their homes.	<p>Significant work has been done on this item.</p> <p>As outlined in Foster Parent Training item #3 above, the following supports this action step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current policy requires licensed foster parents to be notified of court hearings via a copy of the ISSP. The ISSP contains details regarding date and time of the hearing.• Current policy also requires social workers to invite caregivers to participate in prognostic and other staffings.• CA has developed a Shared Planning policy that addresses issues of involvement and participation of families.• The Administration of Courts (AOC) has sent a notice to all Juvenile Court Judiciary in October 2005 indicating the need to determine if foster parents are present at each court hearing and to provide opportunity for foster parents' views to be heard. (See attachment 9 for the notice) <p>CHET guidelines and Shared Planning requires the department to notify and participate in the staffings.</p> <p>(KCF II 22.2.2)</p>	9/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	III. Foster Parent Training and Info		
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10	Department shall provide appropriate access to respite care for caregivers requesting and needing this service.	<p>This item is partially completed.</p> <p>As outlined in Placement Stability item #4, Management will review a phase in implementation plan of the revised respite policy in February 2006. (See attachment 3 draft respite policy)</p> <p>A revised respite policy, which clarifies and expands when respite care is provided to unlicensed relative caregivers, has been developed and approved by CA management. CA is now working on implementation issues. There are resources issues that need to be addressed prior to implementation.</p> <p>In the interim, respite is being provided to foster parents and relative caregivers as per existing respite policy.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.1.3)</p>	9/05
11	The Department shall develop a plan, subject to review and approval of the Panel, for training of unlicensed caregivers	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>The plan for provision of training of unlicensed caregivers is not due to be presented to the Braam panel until 6/06.</p> <p>Initial work is underway on methods to identify and communicate with unlicensed relative caregivers. (as defined by RCW)</p> <p>(KCF II 40.3.2)</p>	6/06

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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	IV. Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
1	Increase contact between social worker and family, child and caregivers to at least once every 30 days	<p>The policy for conducting 30 day visits with children receiving services in their own homes was distributed to staff on October 1, 2005.</p> <p>The agency is working to implement the 30 day visits for children in out-of-home care as staff resources are available.</p> <p>The Governor has agreed to a 2 year implementation strategy to accomplish 30-day visits for all children receiving in-home and out-of-home services. The Governor's supplemental budget, if approved by the legislature, will enable CA to conduct 30 day visits with children in their own home who are receiving services voluntarily starting in fiscal 2007.</p> <p>A subsequent budget request from the governor and legislative approval for the 2007-09 biennium budget ,will complete the governor's plan for phasing in 30 day visits to all children in both in-home and out-of-home care.</p> <p>(KCF II 14.1.2, 14.1.3, 14.1.7)</p>	10/05
2	Increase compliance with policy requiring workers to visit children in placement within the first week of out-of-home care	<p>Current CA policy requires that the agency contact the child within 5 days. Since the contact might not be face to face, and there are frequently no SER entered into CAMIS. Consequentially CA is not able to measure compliance with this item.</p> <p>Long range plans CA include incorporating this data measure into the new SACWIS system.</p> <p>(KCF II 14.1.6)</p>	10/05 - 09/07
3	A face-to-face safety assessment with a child suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect while in the Department's custody shall occur within 24 hours of the report for emergent cases, and within 72 hours of the report for non-emergent cases.	<p>Completed.</p> <p>The 24 hour response policy was implemented April 29, 2005.</p> <p>The 72 hour response policy was implemented on August 1, 2005 well ahead of original proposed completion date.</p> <p>(KCF 1.1.7 and 1.1.5)</p>	3/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

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	IV. Unsafe/Inappropriate Placements		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
4	<p>Children in the custody of the Department will not be placed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Institutions not designed to receive foster children, such as adult mental hospitals or detox facilities where children and adults are commingled▪ A foster home without specialized training and support to provide for the safety of children in the home when sexually aggressive or physically assaultive children reside in the home▪ DSHS offices, including repeated daily stays at DSHS offices▪ Apartments or motels, unless an appropriate licensed foster family or relative caregiver is not available and only with administrative approval and a determination that adequate supervision is provided for the child. This does not preclude appropriate placement in a licensed or approved independent living program.	<p>This action step is nearing completion.</p> <p>As outlined in Placement Stability #3, a new draft placement policy has been developed outlining new requirements related to placement decisions. This new proposed policy clarifies and expands the current Assistant Secretary operational directive regarding placement decisions and safe placements. The policy fully addresses all the prohibited placements identified in this action step.</p> <p>Draft policy was sent to the Panel on Nov 14th and CA is awaiting the panel’s comments. CA will move forward with the policy 30-days from receiving Panel’s feedback.</p> <p>(KCF II 6.2.2)</p>	10/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	V. Sibling Separation		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
1	Increase quality and frequency of visits between children and their siblings	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>Currently the Court reviews each case at every stage of the dependency proceeding “shall consider whether it is in the child’s best interests to be placed with, have contact with, or have visits with siblings.” This occurs at disposition, every review hearing and every permanent planning hearing. (RCW 13.34.130(3);13.34.136 ;13.34.138;13.34.145;13.34.200)</p> <p>A comprehensive visitation policy and practice guide has been developed. The policy and practice guide address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The purpose of visitation• Written visitation plans• Frequency of visits• Location and duration of visits• Participants in visits• Supervision of visits• Criteria for supervisors and monitors of visits• Documentation of visits <p>The visitation policy and practice guide was presented to CA management. Management requested changes to the document. Management team identified cost implications with the new policy. (See attachment 10 for the visitation policy)</p> <p>Casey Family Programs has approved Peer Technical Assistance to assist CA in looking at visitation best practice in other states and their approaches to funding supervised visits. The on site Peer Technical Assistance is scheduled to occur in February 2006. The policy and practice guideline will be revised based upon to the technical assistance and re-submitted to management in March 2006.</p> <p>CA is requesting additional funds in the 2006 supplemental budget to increase supervised visitation with siblings.</p> <p>CA will train staff and providers to support policy changes for visitations, quality visitations and the importance of maintaining the child’s cultural connections beginning April 2006.</p>	4/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	V. Sibling Separation		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
		Following CA management review and approval the policy will be provided to the panel and plaintiffs for comment. (KCF II 18.1.1)	
2	Improve kinship support services	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>As outlined in Placement Stability item #6, much work has been done towards completing this action step.</p> <p>Relative placements show continued increase. (See attachment 6 for placement data)</p> <p>Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) has been implemented in 7 urban offices across the state. Initial results from these meetings show increased kinship involvement. (See attachment 7 for FTDM data)</p> <p>CA has developed a standardized format and process that will be used for Kinship caregiver initial license and relative home studies for those relatives that want to be licensed. CA is now working on implementation issues. There are resources issues that need to be addressed prior to implementation.</p> <p>A kinship care policy framework has been revised and will be re-reviewed by CA management in February. The draft policy framework consists of four main strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to respite care, services and training for unlicensed relatives• Collaboration with caregivers to increase participation in staffings and court hearings• Standardized processes for relative searches• Tools to support child placements with relative caregivers (e.g. ethnic identity and ancestry chart) <p>Following CA management review (February 2006) and approval the policy will be provided to the panel and plaintiffs for comment.</p> (KCF II 8.3.2,8.3.3, 21.1.1)	6/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	V. Sibling Separation		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
3	Hire and train relative search staff to support finding relative resources and supporting Family Team Meetings	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>This action step was included in the KCF II plan but implementation was subject to approval of the 2005 CA budget request. The agency was unsuccessful in receiving funding in the biennium budget to have designated staff for the purpose of conducting relative searches.</p> <p>It is standard procedure at all shelter care hearings for the Court to ask parents to disclose the names of relatives.</p> <p>Searching for relatives remains an expectation for all case carrying staff. CA is committed to achieving substantial compliance with this action step and will propose other actions in April 2006.</p> <p>A relative search guide and tools have been developed to provide a consistent statewide framework and give staff concrete steps to identify and locate relatives. This tool kit about when and how to search for relatives will be sent to management for approval in February 2006. Upon approval the guide and tool will be distributed to staff.</p> <p>See also Placement Stability item # 6 (action items #1,2 and 4)</p> <p>(KCF II 8.3.4)</p>	11/05
4	Implement case conferences prior to dispositional hearing, as required by 2004 legislation	<p>Completed in September 2005.</p> <p>Case conferences are being scheduled as per the 2004 legislation. Interim case conference guidelines were provided to all CA staff in October, 2004. Revised final case conference guidelines were circulated to all CA staff 01/05.</p> <p>The revised guidelines were sent to Panel on Sept 9th.</p> <p>(KCF 7.1.5)</p>	12/04
5	Develop and implement policies and protocols regarding visitation to children, parents and siblings	<p>See Siblings Separation item #1</p> <p>(KCF II 18.1.1)</p>	4/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	V. Sibling Separation		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
6	Submit and, if approved, implement Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver to develop and deliver kinship supports	<p>This item is complete. CA has withdrawn its Title IV-E waiver.</p> <p>CA submitted a proposal for a federal Child Welfare Demonstration Waiver in January 2004. The proposal was designed to deliver enhanced, culturally competent and individually tailored kinship supports to engage paternal, maternal and fictive kin in the planning for and placement of their children. CA is currently working on several initiatives related to relative search and supports for kinship caregivers. It was determined that the Waiver activities would duplicate other CA initiatives. Additional issues related to cost neutrality were identified resulting in a withdrawal of the Demonstration Waiver application.</p> <p>(KCF 12.1.5)</p>	6/05
7	Pursuant to plans developed under KCFII, implement strategies to recruit additional licensed foster care and relative caregivers willing and able to accommodate sibling groups	<p>This action step is being addressed through the implementation of statewide foster parent recruitment contracts that went into effect January 2005. The contracts include recruitment needs identified by each region and performance targets. This included recruitment of homes that could accommodate sibling placement. These are 18 month contracts. Contract details have been provided previously to the panel.</p> <p>(KCF II 24.1.1.)</p>	1/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	VI. Services to Adolescents		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
1	Develop an integrated, re-designed service model for adolescents	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>A draft framework for an integrated service model for adolescents was presented to CA management in July 2005. CA Management requested additional work to be completed on the framework. The revised integrated services for adolescents model was submitted to the Panel in November 10, 2005.</p> <p>(KCF II 19.1.1)</p>	8/07
2	Offer support services to foster youth until age 21	<p>CA is currently offering voluntary support services to foster children until age 21.</p> <p>(KCF II 10.1.1)</p>	2/06
3	Propose statutory change to extend out-of-home care benefits to children through age 21	<p>Completed. Draft legislation was proposed.</p> <p>(KCF II 10.1.1)</p>	2/06
4	Implement multi-disciplinary staffings for youth 6 months before exit	<p>This action step is nearing completion.</p> <p>CA has developed a Shared Planning policy that addresses issues of involvement and participation of families.</p> <p>The six month staffing before exit are included in the Shared Planning Policy.</p> <p>CA received the panel’s comments on proposed the “Share Planning” policy on October 10th. CA sent updated information to the panel on November 14th and is currently waiting for any additional comments from the Panel before implementing.</p> <p>(KCF16.2.2)</p> <p>See also Placement Stability 7.</p>	9/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	VI. Services to Adolescents		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
5	Establish post-guardianship support program	<p>This item is delayed.</p> <p>The Implementation Plan for the regional resource centers was attached to the 2nd quarterly report. The intent was to use Adoption Incentive Funds to support the regional centers. However due to other adoption budget pressures for example recruitment and assessment of adoptive families for waiting children; the implementation plan did not proceed in 2005. Moving forward on this action item will require additional resources.</p> <p>(KCF II 9.3.01)</p>	
6	Develop and implement regional resource centers for post-adoption kinship and post-guardianship families	<p>See above item #5, these items are duplicates.</p> <p>(KCF II 9.3.1)</p>	2/05
7	Establish educational outreach positions to assist children in out-of-home care in meeting higher education goals	<p>This item is nearing completion.</p> <p>Foster Care to College partnership MOU has been completed. The partnership has raised approximately \$1,662,000 dollars to date to support implementation of the foster care to college program. The coordinator position has been posted and will be filled in January 2006. Implementation of the various components of the program will begin January 2006.</p> <p>(KCF II 15.3.4)</p>	4/05
8	Establish Youth Advisory Group	<p>Action item completed</p> <p>The Youth Advisory Group has been established and began meeting in May 2005.</p> <p>(KCF II 191.7)</p>	5/05

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	VI. Services to Adolescents		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
9	Offer caregivers training on educational advocacy skills	<p>This item is nearing completion.</p> <p>In the 2005-07 budget, CA received funding for 6 contracted educational coordinators. The contract for the coordinators has been completed. They will be hired in January 2006 and will begin their duties in February 2006. One of their responsibilities will be to provide training for caregivers on educational advocacy skills. This training will begin in March 2006 and be ongoing.</p> <p>(KCF II 10.4.2)</p>	6/05
10	Develop and implement tutoring and mentoring services, in conjunction with existing community resources, to improve educational outcomes for adolescents in out-of-home care.	<p>This item is nearing completion</p> <p>In the 2005-07 budget, CA received funding for 6 contracted educational coordinators. The contract for the coordinators has been completed. They will be hired in January 2006 and will begin their duties in February 2006. One of their duties is work with community resources to develop tutoring and mentoring services. Implementation of direct advocacy expected in February 2006.</p> <p>(KCF II 15.2.3)</p>	6/06

Update Report of Braam Settlement Items 12.31.2005

	Braam Settlement Items	Status Update	
	VI. Services to Adolescents		
Item#	Action Step in Braam Settlement	Status	Original Proposed Finish Date
11	Review systemic data and literature on methods and supports to caregivers to decrease running away behaviors in adolescents, and develop and implement strategies to decrease runaway behaviors	<p>This item is in process.</p> <p>The Office for Children's Administration Research has completed an initial literature review related to this issue. Details of this review are in the CA Response to the Panel's Design and Specification report of October 2005.</p> <p>CA has developed new policies and procedures to decrease runaway behavior. These have been reviewed by the Braam Panel. The new policies and procedures include structured debriefing with youth after each run away behavior to determine the underlining causes, by a staffing of the case to develop a new service plan to meet the youth's needs and prevent future runaway behavior. The new polices and procedures are scheduled for implementation in February 2006.</p> <p>(See attachment 13 for the draft children missing from care)</p> <p>(KCF II 19.3.2)</p>	3/07